

Messenger and Visitor.

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Messenger and Visitor.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1888.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

The Executive Committee of the
Directors of the M. B. Publishing
Company make the following an-
nouncements in which all the friends
of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR must
be interested:

"MESSENGER AND VISITOR" FREE.

The MESSENGER AND VISITOR will
be sent free to the end of the year
to all whose names are forwarded to
the office. It is hoped that many
need only to acquaint themselves
with the M. & V. to become sub-
scribers. This offer will give all who
desire it the opportunity. Will not
our ministers and agents send in lists
of names at once?

"MESSENGER AND VISITOR" TO JANUARY,
1890, FOR \$1.50.

To all new subscribers, the MES-
SENGER AND VISITOR will be sent
from the time their names are re-
ceived until January, 1890, for \$1.50
in advance. Will not all friends of
the M. & V. help us get a large in-
crease of subscribers upon this offer?

IMPROVEMENT.

Arrangements have been made, to
come into operation the first week
in January, by which it is expected
the appearance of the MESSENGER
AND VISITOR will be improved.

ADDITIONAL.

Encouraged by the kindly ap-
preciation of past efforts, no pains
will be spared to improve the MES-
SENGER AND VISITOR and make it
more acceptable to its readers and
better adapted to do the work for
which it exists. It is hoped that in
the lines of foreign correspondence
and news from the home field espe-
cially, there will be greater fulness.

RABBINGS.

Duties connected with the Governors
of the College and the MESSENGER AND VISITOR
called us over the Bay a fortnight ago. If
any one desires to experience the full
pleasure of an autumn trip across from St.
John to Digby, let him take passage on a
tag with double boilers above deck.

We were glad to find that the solid
stretches of Baptist churches along the
Annapolis valley were well furnished with
the preaching of the Gospel. Annapolis,
Granville Ferry and Island, Hill, are
supplied from the college, as is Perseus
and perhaps Canoeing. Kentville has lost
Bro. Black, and is pastorless. All the
other churches have settled pastors.

The mission in connection with the
Wolville church is reaching quite a num-
ber who do not attend any of the churches.
This work, if carried on with vigor, will
be of untold profit both to the class for whom
it is undertaken and for the church itself.
There are evidences that the line of dis-
tinction between church and Hill is becom-
ing more clearly marked. It may be well
for the Christian churches in the college
and in the country to feel their special
responsibilities each in their own more
immediate work. This will prevent all
that shifting of responsibility to which the
most are inclined. At the same time, it
will be necessary should there be any
loosening of step by each in the other
and its work. The Wolville church is
in a position to make a grand mark on the
long career of a student at Acadia, and
the student may help her discreetly, and
not make her less self-reliant. May the
ideal state of things be reached, through
unselfish regard to the general good.

WINDSOR.

where Bro. Fahey has held the fort for
the past six years. Windsor is a very
conservative, unostentatious place. It is
quietly and solidly prosperous, and its
people know how to save. Their shipping
paid them through the long depression
better than in most places, and many are
now feeling the flood tide due to high
freights.

The new vestry of the Baptist church is
one of the finest in the province, while the
audience room, since its remodeling, is
very cheerful and comfortable. The
audience, the Sunday we were there, was
cut down by the storm; but was large
enough to show what it is on a fine day.
The church have adopted congregational
singing, led by a male quartet. They
have a general practice of church and
congregation on Sunday evenings. This
is a move in the right direction. Bro.
Fahey's health is improving. In any of

our pastors are troubled with indigestion
he will prescribe a good dose of horseback-
ride, well shaken down, once or twice a
day. We were also glad to learn that two
of their earnest workers have been holding
Sabbath evening services at Upper Fal-
mouth, and that a goodly number are
interested in the greatest of all matters. O
that hundreds of our pious laymen would
undertake similar work in destitute places!
We also spent nearly two days in

YARMOUTH.

Any place where one has left four of the
best years of his life must have to him an
interest almost sacred. Memories grateful,
thankful, sad, joyful, will all mingle when
it is seen after an absence of three years.
A press of business prevented calls on
many old and tried friends it would have
been good to see. Still, it was a great
pleasure even to give a hurried greeting to
a few. Many of the young people have
joined the church since Pastor Adams
began his work. These now comprise
some of the most active workers. Bro.
Adams has soul and energy enough for the
body of a Goliath, which he has to project
through one which is very frail. No one
will ever charge him with want of convic-
tions or of courage to act up to the
part. He is now stirring up the people
on the temperance question. It is to be
feared that Yarmouth is not what it once
was in this regard. Victory has led to
carelessness, and the enemy have been at
their secret work of sapping and mining.
We heard the best reports from Pastors
Waite and Shaw at the Temple and Milton,
respectively.

The business men of Yarmouth are very
cheerful. All the factories are working at
their full capacity, and have no lack of
orders. Their freights are up, and the
pulse of Yarmouth still rises and falls with
their rise and fall. Among the new enter-
prises mention should be made of the
Yarmouth Steamship Company, under the
presidency of the Hon. L. E. Baker. For
nearly all Nova Scotia the route from
Yarmouth to Boston is the most direct.
The steamer "Yarmouth" which plies on
this route is probably the finest and swiftest
between our provinces and the United
States. She has failed to make her con-
nection but once during all the past stormy
year, and that was last week. On her
return from Boston, she was thrust out
into the teeth of the gale before any of the
other steamers ventured to leave their
moorings, and is said to have braved the
heavy seas like a duck. With steamers
plying down the shore and across to St.
John, and with prospect of farther enlarge-
ment, this bids fair to be the real Nova
Scotia Steamship Company.

THE WEST OF NOVA SCOTIA

is also well supplied with pastors. From
Annapolis west, the only pastorless churches
are Hill Grove, Freeport, Weymouth and
French Mission. There is a prospect that
two of these may be brought under pastoral
care by a new grouping, and that the
others may secure leaders. Bro. D. H.
Simpson is now laboring at Maitland and
Beaver River.

May the effectual power come down
upon churches and pastors all over the
land.

THE CHURCH A FORCE, NOT A FIELD.

A writer in the Standard calls attention
to this profoundly significant but sugges-
tive remark of Dr. Russell at a meeting of
the Evangelical Alliance. This means
that the church is not so much the place
where work is to be done as the power
which is to do work outside of itself. And
is not this the true ideal of a church of
Christ? The unit of the church is the
individual Christian. And does not the
Scripture insist, in every variety of way,
that the Christian life is one of forth giving,
a life of intercession. It is not to be a
dead sea, with an inlet but no outlet; but
a fountain, fed by sources out of sight and
sending forth fresh vigor and refreshing
streams. He who loves, is not in—
ward-directed, not love himself, but God
and men. This great sweeping outflow
of love, the deepest and strongest of all
currents of the soul, is to carry all the
forces of the whole man in its outward
flow, in obedience to God and in helpful-
ness to men. Just as God sends forth his
life into us, we are to send on its power to
others. To seek to gather and to hold is
to be selfish, which is another word for
the devil; to gather to give to others,
whether it be of money, mental power or
spiritual force means to be unselfish,
another word for godlike. As with the
unit of the church, so should it be with
the church itself. It must exist to give, not
to take; or, at least, only to take to be
able to give the more, of whatever good it
may be.

This idea of a church as a force, not a
field, is emphasized by the nature of the
force it embodies and the relation in which
it stands to the realities and realities of
existence. Force may, perhaps, be said to
be the exercise of power. The church is
to transmit the force which comes through
the exercise of the divine power. The
ordinary displays of the power of God in
the realm of grace go forth through the
medium and agency of men. When we
consider all that depends upon the
exercise of God's gracious power to save
and sanctify, we can have some idea of the
urgency there is that the church recognize
its high position as God's own force among
the myriads who are plunging on down-
ward and destructionward. And do we
speak too strongly when we say that the

church is God's force in the sense that it is
the medium through which he exerts his
power to save the lost? Is it not true
that men are saved through the agency of
those already saved—that the life from God
comes to those dead in trespasses and sins
through the word of God which he has
committed to his people as a sacred trust?
Also, is it not true that only as they are
moved by the power of God to help others
to salvation are men saved, except in some
possible extraordinary displays of his saving
grace? If this be true, then what
urgency, we repeat, there is that the church
rise to the wondrous height of its mission
and its privilege to be God's own force,
for the saving of the lost.

Let us strive and take in the force of
this thought. Here is a ship filled with
precious souls. Across the stretch of
boiling sea is the shore where homes are
nestling and dear ones are waiting with
their love and gladness. But the storm is
on, and the ship is being driven to destruc-
tion upon the reef over which the surf is
dashing in angry foam. See that group of
bronzed men on the shore? They belong
to the life-boat station. They are placed
there by a humane government for just such
emergencies as these. They embody the
power provided by a great people to save
those who are in deadly peril. They know
that unless they can bring rescue to those
white-faced passengers, they will never
look into the faces of dear ones again; but
that there will be wailing instead of glad-
ness. Is it any wonder that these hardy
men steel their nerves, as they think of
the mighty trust they bear from their
country, of the homes that will be made
desolate, of the terror of the fearful death,
unless they can battle their way to them
with rescue, and, with teeth clenched in
deadly resolution, risk destruction them-
selves rather than that they should perish.
For the boatmen, under these circum-
stances, to shrink from a little exposure,
while they embodied the only saving power
which could reach these terrified men and
women about to perish, would be infamy.
But is not this a feeble illustration of the
pressure the churches of our Lord Jesus
Christ should feel? There are also all
around those who are in more deadly peril
than ever threatened shipwrecked men and
women. There is awaiting the saved a
love and gladness which no home on earth
ever knew. Shall it be, then, that those
who are God's own messengers and repre-
sentatives to carry his saving provision to
those who are in peril of the everlasting
destruction of sin, can be otherwise than
active, earnest, intense?

But, it must be confessed that some
Christian acts as though they thought the
church a field, not a force. They want
attention from workers rather than to work
for others. If they do not get as many
calls from the pastor as they think them-
selves entitled to, they are grieved. They
expect, also, that the other members
should look after them. Thus, in many
churches, there is so much expenditure of
time and effort upon a part of the mem-
bership that the pastor and workers have
little force left for aggressive work. In
the light of these tremendous facts, how
unutterably strange does this appear.
Imagine some of the life-boat men, as they
are looking out upon a wreck, demanding
of the captain and the part of the crew who
are just seizing the oars to go to the rescue,
to spare attention which will exhaust
force and time which the imperilled ones
so sorely need! And is it less selfishly
strange and inconsistent for men and
women who are saved themselves to exact
from those who are seeking to save others
from the eternal punishment of sin, that
they turn aside to attend to them? Is not
this robbing the perishing not only of
their own life power but also of that of
those who would faithfully apply God's
word to them. The attention which the church
should demand is that given to soldiers,
that its members may be drilled and made
more efficient in the great struggle to
battle against the powers which are
holding men in bondage to death and hell.

We do not mean by this to disparage
mutual watch care on the part of
church members or pastoral visiting;
but we do mean to utter a protest against
the demand for attention for attention sake,
which is so common. We do also mean to
assert that one-half the weakness of the
church to-day is due to the fact that so
many have no adequate idea of the object
of their salvation. They think they are
saved just merely to be saved. If they but
had the idea firmly fixed in their souls
that they were saved in order to be a force
from God to help save others, it would
revolutionize many lives.

The season has come when special effort
will be made in many churches to reach
the lost. We beg of all brethren and sisters
to take into their deepest hearts the thought
that they are all to be forces from God and
for men, and let this drive out the low and
selfish idea that they live for themselves,
and that others also must live for them.
If all should become so absorbed in their
own concerns that they should only desire
help from others to do better work for the
sake, what a blessed season the approach-
ing one would be. Let each ask himself,
For what am I living? Is it for God and
others than myself, or is it chiefly for self?
If it has been chiefly for self, in the name
of Him who only thought of others, even
unto death, and for the sake of others who
are without God and hope, let there be a
change.

THE WEEK.

The Land Purchase Bill passed the
Commons on Thursday last by a vote of
202 to 141. It provides \$25,000,000 by
which land may be purchased from the
Irish landlords by the government, in
order to sell to tenants. It is said the
landlords will make a good thing out of it,
as it will enable many of them to sell at
higher rates than they can hope to obtain
when the great question is settled. When
the government then becomes the holder
of great tracts of land which it will be
compelled to let out to tenants, as it cannot
be expected that it will all be sold at once
to tenant proprietors, complications may
be expected. Some suppose that Gladstone
foresees that it will thus injure the govern-
ment, and therefore abstains from giving
the help to the opposition he otherwise
would.

Considerable excitement was occasioned
in the house by a trick to arrest a member
of Parliament, David Sheehy. As he was
entering the house, he was presented with
a card. On his going out to speak with
the supposed visitor, he was met by a
constable and served with a summons
under the coercion act. Balfour admitted
it to be a breach of the privileges of the
house. A committee was appointed to
enquire into the matter. Another member
of Parliament, R. Gent. Davis, was com-
mitted to prison for contempt of court, in
refusing to pay over nearly \$20,000 due by
him as administrator of his uncle's estate.
The British people are very sensitive in all
that pertains to the dignity of Parliament
and law.

The Cook or Harvey group of islands
which Great Britain has annexed are
interesting, as it was one of them—
Rarotonga—that Williams began his great
missionary work. It is pleasing to know
that the natives have long been seeking
British protection and are jubilant over the
event. Pity all annexations could not be
of this kind. The inhabitants are
christianized, and are industrious and
prosperous.

At an election held in Holborn, London,
a Conservative was returned; but with a
majority reduced from 1,700 to 965 com-
pared with the last general election. The
Conservatives have scarcely made a gain
since the general election, while the
Liberals have upturned seat after seat, and
reduced majorities in other places.

It appears that Count Herbert Bismarck
has much of the bluntness of his father.
In a recent interview between the Pope
and him, the former remarked: "If the
events of 1870 had depended upon me,
everything would then have been speedily
arranged. Now, after the lapse of so
much time, it is more difficult, but I shall
recall the time lost." Count Herbert
replied: "God has not made it possible for
a man to recall a single moment of his
existence, and your holiness wishes to
recall eight years!"

Boulanger still holds his popularity in
France. It has been thought on two
occasions that he would never survive his
downfall; but he seems again coming to
the front. He is cheered wherever he goes,
and has again resigned his seat in the
Deputies, in order to secure election in still
other constituencies, and thus create
political capital and keep himself before
the public.

The international relations between
Great Britain and the United States may
be materially affected in a very pleasant
way. A few weeks ago, Joseph Chamberlain
married a sprightly American young lady,
and the daughter of a government officer
at home. Now the news comes that
Hon. Mr. Herbert, who is at present the
acting British minister at Washington,
has united his destinies with another fair-
American. Lady Randolph Churchill is
also a native of the Union, not to mention
other wives of British noblemen and
statesmen. Now that no immediate
political capital can be made out of the
twisting the tail of the British lion and the
more silken haunts are uniting the two
countries, there is prospect of greater
amity.

This is the age of trusts. The latest is a
Railroad one. The great magnates have
put their heads together to form a great
combine to put up passenger and freight
rates throughout the great stretch of
country west of the Mississippi. Some
day there will have to be a combine of
consumers, etc., against middlemen and
manufacturers, etc., if this thing goes on.

We are glad to learn that the Scott Act
has been sustained by an overwhelming
majority in Richmond, Quebec. It is
probable that temperance people have
awakened from their delusion. Many of
them supposed, because liquor was sold in
Scott Act counties, that the Act might as
well be abolished. So it was repealed in
several counties of Ontario. The result in
some of these has been to have a very
carnival of rum. Probably the grand vote
to sustain the Act in Richmond marks the
beginning of a great temperance reaction.
We hope our people will not be deluded by
the idea that prohibitory legislation, even
if thwarted largely by hostile judges and
the power of money, is useless.

A remarkable memory is possessed by
—a lady member of Dr. Howard Crosby's
church in New York. Without taking a
single note, she will, when she goes home,
write out every word of her pastor's
sermon, without mistaking even a "the"
or an "and."

Missionary Correspondence.

In my last letter I wrote of the great
drought and of impending famine in case
of the failure of an abundant rain fall.
Well, the rain did not come and so the
famine is here, or close at hand. Since
my last was written there have been two
slight breaks in the drought, both caused
by cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal.
The first of these, as it passed up country,
caused immense damage and loss of life by
floods. Our share of rain was slight. There
was but one heavy downpour in the neigh-
borhood of Bobbili and that was very local,
extending but a few miles in any direction.
Of that, however, I had my full share. I
had been spending a few days at our out-
station at Pe'da Penki. As the weather
began to look threatening I thought it best
to get back to Bobbili. I started at 1 p.m.,
and when half way, left my lady to walk
the remaining five miles. I had not gone
far before the rain began, and for more
than an hour it beat upon me in torrents.
I never saw it rain faster and I am sure
at least three inches must have fallen in the
hour. In a few minutes the paddy fields
and low places were like ponds, and some
of the way I had to wade in water above
my knees. It was the greatest "shower
bath" I ever had. But the ground had
become so dry that in a few days the water
was all absorbed. Ten or twelve days later
we had another heavy shower just about
Bobbili. Hoping the rain might continue
some of the cultivators hurried and trans-
planted as much of the rice land as they
could, though it was too late to expect
much of a crop. But from that time to
the present we have had but two or three
light showers, while for two weeks the
wind has been blowing from the north,
with a clear sky and blazing sun. Things
already begin to look parched. The rice
that was transplanted is dying and nothing
will grow. There is no probability of more
rain this season as the N. E. monsoon
seems to have passed. To look at the
bright sky and the blazing sun day after
day for weeks and months, it almost seems
as if it could never rain again.

And now we have to face the conse-
quences, and what those will be none al-
most shudders to think of. Once the hope of
rain had passed—the price of rice rose at
once from Rs. 40 to Rs. 75 and 80 the
measure; and for some days it was diffi-
cult to get any at all. Those who had
paddy, i. e., rice not sown, shut up their
stores partly to get higher prices and
partly for fear the people would take it by
violence. Last week the people began to
get desperate and threatened to plunder.
The assistant collector of the district was
here for a couple of days and called the
merchants together and advised them to
sell at a lower rate or their stores might
be broken open. They refused, and yester-
day the people rose in a mob and broke
open several stores and carried off whatever
they could lay hands on. After serving
some of the merchants thus, they went to
the house of a Brahmin, one of the Rajah's
managers. He has a lot of rice stored up
and he has been the ringleader in putting
up the prices. When the mob made his
appearance he made salams to the people
and promised to sell at a much cheaper
rate, and begged off. But to-day I hear he
refuses to fulfil his promise, and has called
to his help the Rajah's army, armed with
guns, spears and swords, and declares he
will protect himself. He is the one who is
really to be blamed and it is doubtful if he
escapes. But last night word came by
telegram that a mob at Bimlipatnam had
looted the bazaar and had gone to the Bank
to rob it, and that a company of sepoy had
been ordered from Vizagapatnam. This
news, it is said, has alarmed our Rajah,
who to day has opened his godowns and
is selling paddy at the rate of Rs. 60, the
buying price of which last year was Rs. 30.
I have sent to him to see if he will let me
have a couple of measures called "Garee,"
each of which contains about 1800 quarts.
I have not had a reply yet and hard-
ly expect a favorable one. I ought to have
sent a supply before the price went up
but waited just a day or two too long.
However, it may be just as well I did not,
for it might not be safe to have any stored
up with the people so desperate as they
will become by and by.

I hear that in Parvatipour yesterday
Rs. 20,000 were plundered, though the
collector and police were present. Such
things at the very beginning of the scarcity
makes the outlook very serious. The
Rajah has a good deal of paddy stored up
in the districts and if he continues to sell
as at present it will help matters a good
deal for a time. But the supply is limited
and will only last for a few months, while
there is a whole year to be provided for.
The crop of "rage," a cheap grain has
been pretty good in some places, so that
there is not the absolute famine in prospect
that they had in South India eleven years
ago. But the extent of country affected is
very great; indeed, nearly all India will
produce but partial crops this year. If
there are good crops in Burmah and Siam,
rice can be imported, but at high prices.
If the crops in Burmah fail, as they are
reported to have done, then the outlook is
dark indeed.

At the very best there must be a great
misery for multitudes, while for many I
can see nothing but absolute starvation. I
have been prophesying ever since I came
here that for their wickedness and idolatry
God would surely visit them in judgment.
They usually laughed at me, but now many
of them confess that my words have come
true. The Brahmins are pretty quiet.

They do not like to be shown up as de-
ceivers and false prophets. They kept
promising rain and good harvest to the
very last, demanding of the people presents
and money for ceremonies necessary to
secure rain. Many of the people are ready
to throw it up at them now, but the ma-
jority still regard them as superior beings
and accept their teachings. Whether God
sees that nothing short of this famine will
break them of their idolatry, or whether
even this will have that effect I
cannot say. And whether this will turn
their attention to Christianity, as
did the last famine, is hard to foresee.
If we had money to spend freely among
the poor it would help make Christianity
popular at least. But what can we do?
All the money raised for Foreign Mission
work in our province would be but a drop
in the ocean as compared with the demands
for help in the Vizagapatnam district alone.

There is not only a scarcity of food but
of water as well. At this season the tanks
should be full, while water should be
within from five to ten feet of the surface
anywhere. But most of the tanks are
empty. A few have a small supply, while
the water is from twenty to thirty feet
below the surface of the ground. There
is no stock of food for cattle, except what
little grass can be found, and that will soon
be done, and then without fodder or water
it seems inevitable that they must die by
thousands. Some may think I am painting
a very dark picture. So be it; but it is
not nearly so dark as the reality promises
to be three months hence. It views of what
seems to be such inevitable distress ahead
of us, and ignorant of what is best to do,
helpless to do what might be done with
abundant means, I feel at times almost
wish for a decent excuse for running away
from it all till better times come.

As for ourselves personally I presume
we shall be able to pull through. It will
be rather difficult to care for our
school children. If worst comes to worst
we can migrate to some other place, per-
haps. My water supply is very short. One
well 35 feet deep is nearly dry. The other,
deepened lately to 35 feet, has about 5 feet
in it now. The large tank near the town
is very low and the water bad, and I know
of but one place for miles around where
there are springs that promise a permanent
supply. I shall have a hard fight to save
the trees on the mission compound, I fear.
How this distress will affect our work
among the villages this cold season, I
cannot tell. I plan to go out on a tour
next week. Whether we shall find any-
thing to eat and drink I cannot say. I
hope the hearts of the people may be
opened to bear of spiritual things. After a
time the government may introduce relief
works to some extent. If any in the
provinces feel disposed to help in any way
there will be abundance of opportunity
through our Board, I have no doubt. The
most difficult question to settle would be
as to how to spend it to the best advantage
when there will be so many demands to
meet.

I am glad after writing so much that is
dark and discouraging to have one thing
to report that is bright and encouraging,
and that is the baptism lately of a young
man from Palkonda, the son of the
weaver, Gurana, of whom I wrote at the
first of the year. Father and son have
been hesitating a good while over the
question of baptism, —the London Mission
people trying to convince them it was
pouring or sprinkling. Lately the son
became convinced and went to Akalam-
para, and was baptized by Bhagavan
Behara. I hope he will become a true and
faithful worker. I trust the father will
follow him soon. There is another man of
good influence who is inquiring and
seems near the kingdom, if not already in
it. I hope to see him next week, if the
Lord will. G. CHURCHILL.

Bobbili, Oct. 19.

Halfpenny Items.

The annual session of this "Grand
Body" of temperance workers in Nova
Scotia held one of its most interesting
annual sessions, Nov. 6-9, proving that
the total abstinence cause and prohibition
in this province are gaining friends, and
must ultimately prevail.

Special attention—more than ever before
—was given to the needed organization
work among the young. A good, live
committee has this matter in hand. The
action along this line, taken by the N. S.
Union S. S. Conventions, was heartily
endorsed, viz: to introduce the "triple
pledge" into the S. Schools of the
Province.

This city, just now, presents a busy
appearance, which doubtless will continue
till the end of the year and the close of
navigation. The "Dominion thanksgiving
day" was very generally observed; the day
seemed "Sunday like," and was really so.
The products of the soil and sea call for
special thankfulness. This city, situated as
it is, so favorably, must eventually
extend its borders, even though it be
somewhat like "pushing a big load up
hill." Halifax does a large, though quiet,
business, as may be seen by a peep through
the numerous mercantile establishments, and
a tour about the warehouses, wharves
and depots.

BAPTIST BOOK ROOM.—Opening new
lot of Panny's this week. Also, Xmas
Cards and Oxford Teachers Bible, for
\$2.25 to \$6.50, no one also on India paper.